

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on January 30, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification and claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-11. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are the independent claims. Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Initially, it is noted that all of the amendments can find support from the disclosure of the present application. Thus, no new matter is believed to be introduced therein.

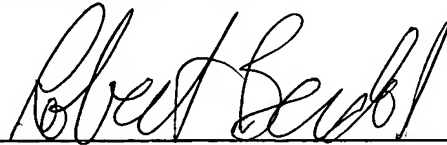
Claims 1, 9 have been objected to because of informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to overcome the objection.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner indicates that "merging of the images precisely" in claims 1, 5 and 9 is unclear since the "images" are not defined in the claim. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5 and 9 according to the detailed description and the drawings, for clarifying that the images for merging are partial images obtained by the carriage before and after the carriage stops. A discussion of the merging of partial images can be found in Applicants' Background of the Invention. It is submitted that the claims comply with all official provisions, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-12, is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 3, 2006
Date

RHB/vm